

Claims:

1. A method of culturing hepatocytes for a long term, characterized in that fresh hepatocytes are maintained in a medium at 15 to 30°C for 1 to 6 days, followed by culturing under physiological conditions.

2. The method of culturing hepatocytes for a long term according to claim 1, wherein the medium for fresh hepatocytes contains at least Lanford's medium.

3. The method of culturing hepatocytes for a long term according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the culturing under physiological conditions is performed at  $37\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a medium containing at least Lanford's medium.